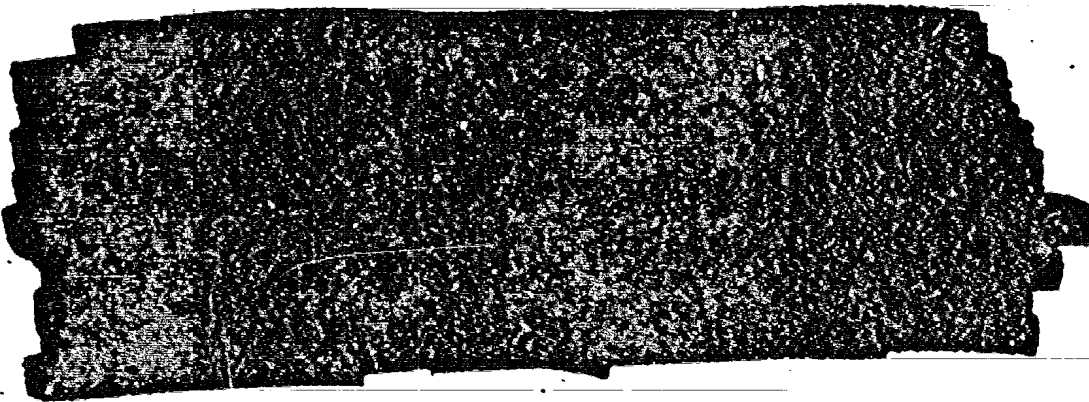


1-1616

6 December 1971

## MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Six American Prisoners of War in Viet Cong Military Region 3



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1. As of 10 November 1971, six American prisoners of war (POW) were being held in a prison camp located within the Viet Cong (VC) Military Region 3 (MR-3) Rear Services Section headquarters at WQ430962. Two of the POWs are majors; three are captains (two of whom are negroes); and one is a first sergeant. The six were captured in the U Minh Forest but the dates of their capture are unknown; all are believed to have been detained for several years.

2. The American POWs are treated better than the Vietnamese prisoners.\* They are kept inside a single four-meter square structure with earthen walls, and are separated from the other prisoners. They are always chained and are guarded by one platoon of North Vietnamese Army (NVA) troops.

Comment: One VC cadre who claimed to have seen the Americans described them as being in good health.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
Date ... MAY 1971

[REDACTED]

3. The security and defenses at the site are extensive. A guardpost at WQ445950 east of the installation, is manned by 60 VC guerrillas, but there are no mine fields or booby traps on this side. The unit is armed with rifles and one 12.7mm anti-aircraft machine gun. A 100-man company of the VC U Minh local force battalion is located near WQ440960; these men are armed with AK-47 rifles and two 12.7mm anti-aircraft machine guns. The unit can be reinforced by 36 well-armed NVA troops immediately.

4. The NVA 500 battalion, located near WQ430960, provides overall security for the MR-3 Rear Services installation.\* The areas to the north, south and west are protected by nine 12.7mm anti-aircraft machine guns and have fortified trenches and foxholes. The inland side is also protected by extensive minefields approximately 1000 meters away, it is referred to as the "forbidden zone" by the NVA troops.

[REDACTED]